

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A facsimile apparatus for carrying out facsimile communication by an instruction from a computer, comprising:

means for notifying a computer of confidential reception when the facsimile apparatus has performed the confidential reception, said computer being supposed to carry out confidential processing; and

means for transmitting the confidentially received content in accordance with a demand from said computer,

wherein the facsimile apparatus performs encryption and decryption by using an encryption key produced based on peculiar information of the facsimile apparatus and said computer at the time of carrying out communication with said computer via a network.

2. The facsimile apparatus according to claim 1, further including selecting means for selecting a part to be encrypted by the encryption key from the content to be transmitted to said computer which is supposed to carry out confidential processing, wherein the facsimile apparatus performs encryption in accordance with the selection of the selecting means.

3. A facsimile apparatus for carrying out facsimile communication by an instruction from a computer, comprising:

means for carrying out confidential reception; and

means for transmitting the confidentially received content as electronic mail to a computer which is supposed to carry out confidential processing,

wherein the facsimile apparatus performs encryption and decryption by using an encryption key produced based on peculiar information of the facsimile apparatus and said computer at the time of carrying out communication with said computer via a network.

4. The facsimile apparatus according to claim 3, further including selecting means for selecting a part to be encrypted by the encryption key from the content to be transmitted to said computer which is supposed to

carry out confidential processing, wherein the facsimile apparatus performs encryption in accordance with the selection of the selecting means.

5. A facsimile apparatus comprising:
receiving means for receiving facsimile data from a channel;
encrypting means for encrypting the facsimile data by a common key produced based on peculiar information of the facsimile apparatus and a designated forwarding destination; and
forwarding means for forwarding the encrypted facsimile data to the designated forwarding destination via a computer network.

6. The facsimile apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said channel is a telephone line.

7. The facsimile apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said receiving means is capable of carrying out confidential reception, and when the confidential reception of the facsimile data is carried out, the facsimile data is encrypted by said encrypting means.

8. The facsimile apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said forwarding means utilizes electronic mail protocol.

9. The facsimile apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said receiving means is capable of carrying out confidential reception, and when the confidential reception of facsimile data is carried out, the facsimile apparatus produces a communication message to the effect that the confidential reception has been carried out, and transmits the communication message as electronic mail to the designated forwarding destination.

10. The facsimile apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the facsimile apparatus encrypts the communication message by using said common key.

11. The facsimile apparatus according to claim 9, wherein when the

facsimile apparatus receives, from the designated forwarding destination, a demand for sending of the confidentially received facsimile data after transmitting the communication message, the facsimile apparatus forwards the confidentially received facsimile data to the forwarding destination.

12. The facsimile apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the facsimile apparatus receives a pass code together with said demand from the designated forwarding destination, judges whether or not the pass code is correct, and forwards the confidentially received facsimile data to the forwarding destination when the pass code is correct.

13. The facsimile apparatus according to claim 5, further including producing means for producing said common key based on peculiar information of the facsimile apparatus and the designated forwarding destination.

14. The facsimile apparatus according to claim 5, further including selecting means for selecting a part to be encrypted by said common key from the received facsimile data, wherein the facsimile apparatus encrypts the facsimile data in accordance with the selection of the selecting means.

15. A method of facsimile communication comprising the steps of:
receiving facsimile data from a channel;
producing a common key based on peculiar information of a receiving side and a designated forwarding destination;
encrypting the facsimile data by said common key; and
forwarding the encrypted facsimile data to the designated forwarding destination from the receiving side via a computer network.

16. The method according to claim 15, wherein said channel is a telephone line.

17. The method according to claim 15, further including the step of selecting a part to be encrypted by said common key from the received facsimile data, wherein encryption of the facsimile data is carried out in

accordance with the selection.

18. The method according to claim 15, wherein said common key is produced by the ID-NIKS system.

19. A storing medium for storing a program to be executed by a computer, comprising:

program code means for making a computer receive facsimile data from a channel;

program code means for making the computer produce a common key based on peculiar information of a receiving side of the facsimile data and a designated forwarding destination;

program code means for making the computer encrypt said facsimile data by said common key; and

program code means for making the computer forward the encrypted facsimile data to the designated forwarding destination from the receiving side via a computer network.

20. The storing medium according to claim 19, wherein said channel is a telephone line.